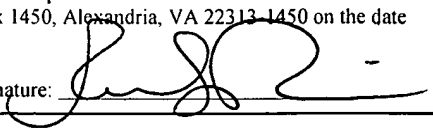




**THEOR 201.1 US (09907976)**

**CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING:** I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service via Express Mail No.: EV 331562066 US addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.

Dated: December 23, 2004

Signature: 

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
William W. LEE et al.

Application No.: 09/689,429

Group Art Unit: 2143

Filed: October 12, 2000

Examiner: Mitra KIANERSI

For: SMART HANDLE

MS: Non-Fee Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Dear Sir:

Prior to the examination and further to the Response filed on September 27, 2004 responsive to the final office action dated June 25, 2004 (Paper No. 8), please amend this application as follows: